

## Preview of Upcoming Special Focus

Family foster care is increasingly utilized globally as a service for children and their biological families. Recognizing the importance of these developing models, *Families in Society* has collected contributions from around the world for a special issue coming in Winter 2006 (Volume 87, Number 4).

In cooperation with the International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO), this special issue highlights family foster care programs from various countries and includes new articles by child welfare administrators and practitioners, foster parent associations, educators, and researchers.

To preview this special issue, visit [www.familiesinsociety.org](http://www.familiesinsociety.org), or send your preorder request to [info@familiesinsociety.org](mailto:info@familiesinsociety.org).

### **Building Secure Relationships: Attachment in Kin and Unrelated Relationships**

*Susan A. Cole*

The attachment relationships of infants with their kin and unrelated foster caregivers are studied. The discussion includes infant characteristics, caregiver characteristics, differences in the home environments and implications for future research and social work practice.

### **Family Foster Care: Cross-National Research Perspectives**

*Anthony N. Maluccio*

This integrative review of outcome research on family foster care services in various Western countries suggests directions for further study to improve the life chances for young people coming to the atten-

tion of the child welfare system. Especially needed is comparative cross-national research on the effectiveness of services for certain groups in the child welfare population, particularly minority youths.

### **Keeping Them Home: Aboriginal Out-of-home Care in Australia**

*Mel Gray*

All Australian jurisdictions support the concept of Aboriginal self-determination and the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. However, they do so from within a framework informed by Western liberal values. As a consequence, Aboriginal people are frustrated in regard to their understanding and vision of self-determination. The authors argue that for these objectives to be achieved it is necessary to adopt culturally appropriate values to inform policy and practice.

### **Treatment Family Foster Care: Its History and Current Role**

*Martha Morrison Dore*

An examination of research on treatment foster care as an essential element in the continuum of treatment for children and youth with serious emotional and behavioral disorders is presented. Included is the development and use of

treatment foster care from three distinct child-serving systems: child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice.

### **'Looking After Children' and Its Ability to Promote Resilient Children and Resilient Workers**

*Kathleen Kufeldt*

*The Looking After Children*

Assessment and Action Records (AARs) are currently being used or piloted in at least 14 countries. This paper describes the experiences of one child welfare unit which participated in the first Canadian national pilot of the *Looking After Children* AARs. Its use promoted resilience and improved outcomes for the young people. Social workers' commitment to their work was enhanced despite the often overwhelming demands of protection work.

### **Care of Orphans: Fostering Interventions for Children Whose Parent(s) Died of AIDS in Ghana**

*Alice A. Ansah-Koi*

One of the devastating social problems associated with HIV/AIDS is the increasing number of orphans created within communities over relatively short periods of time. The growing number of orphans through AIDS calls for a review of the support and care systems for such people. The enormous nature of the burden of care and support for such orphans calls for individual, community, societal and even global efforts.



*Rosemarie Carbino, Guest Editor*

# Family Foster Care: Voices From Around the World



## “But Grandma You Might Die”: Examining Grandparent Care of Children in New Zealand

*Jill Worrall*

The phenomenon of grandparents taking full responsibility for their grandchildren is increasing internationally. The New Zealand Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act (1989) was a leader in international child welfare legislation in making extended family the preferred placement option for children in need of care and protection. The psychological, cultural, legal and socio-economic issues that impact how care is experienced are examined with a view of informing social work policy and practice.

## “The Real Work Is What They Do Together”: Peer Support and Child Welfare Services

*Jill Duerr Berrick*

This article examines a peer support intervention with birth parents in the child welfare system. The Mendocino County Family Services Center (MCFSC) model is described and findings from a process study are presented and discussed. This model engages parents in a sequence of services based on developmental stages. Interventions by facilitators and peers and client

life events were observed.

## National Foster Parent Associations: Advocacy, Support, Empowerment

*Eileen Mayers Pasztor & Emily Jean McFadden*

Foster parenting in the U.S. dates back over 150 years, but it was not until 1970 that the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) was created. The article describes the NFPA's progress in relation to the mission of its founders, while considering the socio-economic and political change drivers that have influenced its progress. The article proposes current and future challenges both nationally and, because of globalization, internationally.

## Recruiting Hispanic Foster Parents: Issues of Culture, Language and Social Policy

*Doris Correa Capello*

Hispanics are one of the fastest growing racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. The number of Hispanic children entering foster care is increasing faster than the child welfare system can license families who share language and cultural identity. This paper presents issues that must be considered when recruiting Hispanic foster parents.

## Enhancing Quality of Life for Children With Developmental Disabilities in Child Welfare

*Ann Fudge Schormans, Marose Coniega, & Rebecca Renwick*

Quality of life for children with developmental disabilities (DD) has recently received increasing attention. This qualitative study examines quality of life based on the perspectives of foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers. Using grounded theory methodology, placement stability is identified as a contributing factor to quality of life.



# FAMILIES IN SOCIETY

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414-359-1040 ext. 3663 | info@familiesinsociety.org

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